United Nations A/61/336–S/2006/731

General Assembly
Security Council

Distr.: General
12 September 2006

Original: English

General Assembly
Sixty-first session
Item 19 of the provisional agenda*
Question of Cyprus

Security Council
Sixty-first year

Letter dated 12 September 2006 from the Permanent Representative of Turkey to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General

I have the honour to transmit herewith a letter dated 12 September 2006 addressed to you by Murat Soysal, Charge d'affaires a.i. of the Turkish Republic of Northern Cyprus (see annex).

I would be grateful if the present letter and its annex could be circulated as a document of the General Assembly, under agenda item 19, and of the Security Council.

(*Signed*) Baki İlkin
Ambassador
Permanent Representative

* A/61/150

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Annex to the letter dated 12 September 2006 from the Permanent Representative of Turkey to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General

Upon instructions from my Government, I have the honour to refer to the letter dated 25 August 2006 addressed to you by the Greek Cypriot representative and circulated as a document of the General Assembly and of the Security Council (A/60/991-S/2006/691), which yet again contains allegations of violations of the "airspace of the Republic of Cyprus" and of the "flight information region (FIR) of Nicosia", and to bring to your kind attention the following.

In response to such false and pretentious allegations, I wish, once again, to reiterate that flights within the sovereign airspace of the Turkish Republic of Northern Cyprus take place with the full knowledge and consent of the appropriate authorities of the State, over which the Greek Cypriot administration in South Cyprus has no jurisdiction or right of say whatsoever. Furthermore, it should be emphasized that allegations of so-called violations of the flight information region or violations of air traffic regulations are invalid, as the civil aviation authority of the Turkish Republic of Northern Cyprus is the only competent authority to provide air traffic and aeronautical information services.

As stated in our previous letters, claims that the sovereignty of the Greek Cypriot administration extends over the whole island, including the territory of the Turkish Republic of Northern Cyprus, are baseless. Such claims by the Greek Cypriot side are divorced from the existing realities in Cyprus, namely, the existence of two independent States, each exercising sovereignty and jurisdiction within and above its respective territory on the island.

Attempts by the Greek Cypriot representatives to confer legitimacy upon an illegal administration will be futile as long as the Turkish Cypriot people refuse to bow to its writs. What would indeed be conducive to a better climate on the island would be for the Greek Cypriot side to stop arrogating itself the rights and responsibilities it does not legally have, and to cease all hostilities towards the Turkish Cypriot people.

It is worth mentioning that more than two years have elapsed since the separate simultaneous referendums held in Cyprus on your settlement plan on 24 April 2004, in which the Greek Cypriot side, at the behest of its leadership, resoundingly voted against a comprehensive solution, and therefore all efforts towards reunification and reconciliation have been impeded by the Greek Cypriot administration. Some 65 per cent of the Turkish Cypriots, on the other hand, voted for the reunification of the island and the establishment of a new partnership. The plan was a compromise which had the backing of the international community as a whole. As you stated in your subsequent mission of good offices report (S/2004/437) dated 28 May 2004, the Turkish Cypriot people voted in favour of it notwithstanding the great sacrifices it entailed for them. In this respect, the futile attempt of the Greek Cypriot representative to depict the Turkish Cypriot side as a "secessionist entity" is a clear indication that the Greek Cypriot side has not come to terms with the realities and attempts to distort the picture.

What is more, as you put it in the above-mentioned report, "the Turkish Cypriot vote has undone any rationale for pressuring and isolating them ... I would hope that the members of the [Security] Council can give a strong lead to all States

to cooperate both bilaterally and in international bodies to eliminate unnecessary restrictions and barriers that have the effect of isolating the Turkish Cypriots and impeding their development, deeming such a move as consistent with Security Council resolutions 541 (1983) and 550 (1984)". I would like to reiterate once again the firm commitment of the Turkish Cypriot side to the comprehensive settlement of the Cyprus problem under the auspices of your good offices mission and on the basis of the Annan plan and well-established United Nations parameters.

The Greek Cypriot administration should be reminded, once again, that its counterpart is, and has always been, the Turkish Cypriot side, not Turkey. Following the rejection by the Greek Cypriot side of the United Nations settlement plan, the international community in general the United Nations in particular still expect concrete actions from the Greek Cypriot administration demonstrating its political will and sincerity for a fair and just settlement in Cyprus.

(Signed) Murat **Soysal**
Chargé d'affaires a.i.